capacity short-range (B-737-800) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,589 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Development of Kolkata as a regional HUB**

1395. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government and its national carriers (Air India and Indian Airlines) are gearing up to take advantage of the opportunities emanating from open sky policy with countries of ASEAN;

(b) if so, whether Kolkata Airport is sought to be developed as a regional hub in this context;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d)The liberalization of air services arrangements with ASEAN nations, will provide reciprocal opportunities to Indian carriers to expand their operation to this region. Air India and Indian Airlines will be able to mount additional services from our international airports including Kolkata, to ASEAN countries. However, the actual utilization of these opportunities will depend on their commercial judgement.

**Expansion of Indian Airlines Airport Services Ltd.**

1396. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved fresh investment and expansion of Indian Airlines Airport Services Ltd., a subsidiary of Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the purpose for investment and weather the said business plan has been approved by the Board of Indian Airlines?